

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJ: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ

REF: TEHRAN 11047

1. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ MADE A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO TEHRAN NOVEMBER 15-17, AND WE BELIEVE CONTRIBUTED IMPORTANTLY TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF US-IRANIAN RELATIONS IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE. HE FOLLOWED THE PROGRAM SET FORTH IN REFTEL WHICH INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH THE SHAH AND THE PRIME MINISTER. SECRETARY BUTZ' PRINCIPAL PURPOSE WAS TO REASSURE THE SHAH AND OTHER IRANIAN OFFICIALS THAT IRAN COULD COUNT ON THE US AS A RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF FEED AND FOOD NEEDS. HE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT THE US REMAINS WILLING TO ASSIST IRAN IN ITS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND THAT IT IS EAGER TO COOPERATE WITH IT IN INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH SUCH MECHANISMS AS THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE SECRETARY MADE AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON THOSE HE MET AND HIS VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE MEDIA COVERAGE.

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2. IN HIS MEETING WITH IRANIAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE

MAHDAVI THE SECRETARY WAS TOLD THAT IRAN HAD BEEN ADVERSE-
LY AFFECTED BY EARLIER US FOOD EXPORT EMBARGOES. THE
SECRETARY'S REASSURANCES THAT THE US INTENDED TO BE A
RELIABLE SUPPLIER IN THE FUTURE WAS ACCORDINGLY WELCOMED.
AS PARTICULARLY GOOD NEWS. IN THIS CONNECTION MAHDAVI
SAID THAT IRAN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE POSSI-
BILITY OF A FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF FEED
GRAINS AND WHEAT. HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE IRAN'S OWN
PLANS FOR FURTHERING DEVELOPMENTS ALREADY UNDER WAY TO
ACHIEVE GREATER PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY OF MEAT,
MILK, POULTRY AND EGGS, ALL PRODUCTS WHICH IRAN WAS
CURRENTLY IMPORTING IN INCREASING QUANTITIES. MAHDAVI
EXPRESSED A LIVELY INTEREST IN THE CONTRIBUTIONS US
TECHNOLOGY COULD MAKE TO IRAN'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT
VENTURE TO ESTABLISH A SOYBEAN CRUSHING INDUSTRY WHICH
WOULD RELY ON IMPORTED SOYBEANS IN LIEU OF THE MORE
EXPENSIVE VEGETABLE OIL IT IS CURRENTLY IMPORTING.

3. WEST, HUME, AND OTHERS IN THE SECRETARY'S PARTY MET
IN SEPARATE MORNING WORKING SESSIONS WITH UNDERSECRETARIES
IN THE IRANIAN MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
AFFAIRS AS A PRELUDE TO THE SECRETARY'S AFTERNOON MEETING
WITH BOTH MINISTRIES JOINTLY. THE RESULTS OF THESE
MEETINGS MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE A FOLLOW UP
EXCHANGE OF LETTERS TO REVIEW AND CLARIFY POINTS INCLUDED
IN PREVIOUS LETTERS OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT US-IRANIAN
AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION.

B. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE USDA WILL SEND A TWO-MAN
TEAM TO IRAN WITHIN 4-6 WEEKS TO EXAMINE MORE CLOSELY
IRAN'S AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS.

C. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT GOI BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS
HAVE DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT COMMISSION PROJECTS
BUT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT MOMENTUM COULD BE REGAINED EARLY
IN THE NEXT IRANIAN FISCAL YEAR(BEGINNING MARCH 1976).

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D. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
WOULD APPOINT OFFICIALS ON ITS SIDE TO MEET WITH THE US
AGRICULTURAL TRADE COMMITTEE AND PROCEED WITH PLANS FOR
THE EXCHANGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING
INFORMATION.

E. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ALSO AGREED TO ASSIST
IN RESOLVING THE DISPUTE OVER CATTLE CHARTER FLIGHTS AND

DELAYS IN PAYMENT OF FREIGHT SUBSIDIES.

4. OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED IN A GENERAL WAY INCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF OPIC INSURANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, AGRICULTURAL JOINT VENTURES, AND THE FEED GRAIN COUNCIL OR THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION COLLABORATING WITH IRANIAN FEED MILLS.

HELMS

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